

ESSAY REVIEW

Edited by KAREN HUNGER PARSHALL

All books, monographs, journal articles, and other publications (including films and other multisensory materials) relating to the history of mathematics are abstracted in the Abstracts Department. The Reviews Department prints extended reviews of selected publications.

Materials for review should be sent to the editor of the Abstracts Department, Prof. David E. Zitarelli, Department of Mathematics, Temple University, Philadelphia, PA 19122, U.S.A.

Most reviews are solicited. However, colleagues wishing to review a book are invited to make known their wishes. Comments on books, articles, or reviews should be submitted to the Correspondence Department. We also welcome retrospective reviews of older books. Colleagues interested in writing such reviews should consult first with the editor to avoid duplication.

Classical Probability in the Enlightenment. By Lorraine Daston. Princeton, NJ (Princeton Univ. Press). 1988. xviii + 423 pp. including bibliography and index.

The Rise of Statistical Thinking 1820–1900. By Theodore M. Porter. Princeton, NJ (Princeton Univ. Press). 1986. xii + 322 pp. including index.

The History of Statistics—The Measurement of Uncertainty before 1900. By Stephen M. Stigler. Cambridge, MA (Harvard University Press). 1986. xviii + 410 pp. including two appendices, suggested readings, bibliography, and index.

Reviewed by Ivo Schneider

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In 1962, F. N. David published her *Games, Gods and Gambling* as a supplement to Isaac Todhunter's venerable *History of the Mathematical Theory of Probability From the Time of Pascal to That of Laplace* of 1865. Since the late 1960s, the history of probability theory and statistics has changed considerably. The output of articles and monographs in this field can be compared today with that in the history of analysis. However, authors of contributions to the history of stochastics have very different backgrounds and interests. I would like to distinguish four groups in this field:

1. statisticians, probabilists, and historians of mathematics specializing in the history of stochastics, who are mainly concerned with the historical background of the mathematical concepts and tools of the subject,